

From: Art Liles
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/24/02 11:16am
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

Dear Sirs,

In regards to the litigation between AOL and Microsoft, I firmly believe AOL is way out of line. The founders of Microsoft were people who followed the American dream. They used their knowledge and talent to build a company that has forever lead the world market in computer programs, operating systems and yes, the Internet Explorer browser.

America was founded on competition. We strive economically on competition. But if one builds, designs and markets something better than another, why knock him down and drag him through court from it? Do Ford and GM design, build and market their cars and trucks competitively and then drag each other down and through the courts when one offers better deals, service or incentives? I personally have used each of the two web browsers and Internet Explorer does offer a better experience to the user in most all ways one could compare them. My personal views. But as AOL forces it's users to be advertised to, as it does, in order to use it, AOL advertising intergration into AOL is no different than Microsoft intergrating IE into it's Operating Systems. You have the choices to buy/use or not. It is in how they each have chosen to do for their own reasons. I feel that 'Windows' really does benefit from the way IE is made apart of it. As I do have the choice to add Netscape to my system and use it and not IE to browse, then Microsoft has not made Netscape any less of a product or hindered it a choice to use. Netscape is just not as good as Internet Explorer!

Creative design and marketing should be encouraged and praised. Even if a fortune and empire is built from it. All AOL-Time Warner needs to do is to develop a better operating system and then make Netscape apart of it. They were founded on selling products and advertising, not technology to better the american way of life through computers as Microsoft has done. You slap Microsoft down for what AOL wants and you slap down the American Dream in all of us. Microsoft became what it is today because it lead the 'world' in design and marketing while making it affordable for all of us to have. What's AOL done but create a private community for it's users and placed them into a world of 'forced' advertising to be apart of it. Case closed.

Sincerely yours

Arthur Liles

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